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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter GOOSEN (South Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/67 of 16 December 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October 1994, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 53 to 66, 68 to 72 and 153. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 10th meetings, from 17 to 24 October (see A/C.1/49/PV.3-10). Structured discussion of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach took place from 25 to 27 and on 31 October and 1 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 12th to 16th meetings, on 3, 4, 7 and 9 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.12-16). Action on draft resolutions on those items was taken at the 19th to 25th meetings, from 14 to 18 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.19-25).

4. In connection with item 55, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

(b) Letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/49/L.29

5. On 2 November, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa and Sweden submitted a draft resolution entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/C.1/49/L.29), which was later also sponsored by the Czech Republic, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova and Uruguay. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Brazil at the 13th meeting, on 4 November.

6. At its 20th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.29 as follows:

(a) The seventh preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 132 to 2, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42).

2/ Subsequently, the delegations of Djibouti and Zambia indicated that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: India, Iran (Islamic Republic of).

Abstaining: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Mexico, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

(b) The eighth preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 129 to 2, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: India, Iran (Islamic Republic of).

Abstaining: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Israel, Mexico, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

(c) Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by a recorded vote of 128 to 2, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/, 3/

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: India, Iran (Islamic Republic of).

Abstaining: Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

(d) Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.29 as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 140 to none, with 6 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece,

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3/ Brazil indicated that it had actually voted in favour of operative paragraph 3 but that the machine had shown "abstention".

Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/44 of 9 December 1992 and 48/67 of 16 December 1993,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1994 substantive session, 4/ in particular the work of Working Group II on agenda item 55, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields", 5/

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42).

5/ Ibid., para. 22.

Recognizing that science and technology per se are deemed to be neutral, that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Mindful that the application of science and technology relevant to weapons of mass destruction, as well as to conventional weapons, should not lead to excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms through quantitative build-up or qualitative improvements of arms which threaten international peace and security,

Recognizing that progress in the application of science and technology contributes substantially to the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements in the fields of, inter alia, weapons disposal, military conversion and verification,

Cognizant that international transfers of high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Recalling that norms and guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes,

Mindful that cooperation in this field among supplier and recipient States should be enhanced by a firm common commitment to preventing transfers of high technology with military applications for exclusively peaceful purposes from being diverted to non-peaceful uses, and that such cooperation should be based on clearly defined and balanced rights and obligations, appropriate measures of transparency and verification, equity and fairness and predictability of incentives and benefits,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological achievements should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. Recommends that Member States adopt and implement national measures, consistent with international law, regulating the transfer of high technology with military applications in order to seek to ensure that such transfers do not undermine international peace and security and that access is not denied to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes;

4. Invites Member States to widen multilateral dialogue, seeking universally acceptable norms and guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications;

5. Encourages the United Nations to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".